College: Why You Must Go

A presentation by
MSgt Bartlett
89 AW YoRR
Project Manager

AF Commissioning Opportunities Included!

College and Why You Must Go

- **College has taken the place of high school to determine who's educated and who's not**
  - Public high schools in disarray; many graduate students who cannot read/write at HS levels
  - Public high school officials and teachers poorly paid, many not motivated, not interested, do a poor job
  - **For many employers, No College = No Knowledge**

College and Why You Must Go

- **Employers consider that a College Graduate...**
  - Is able to stick to a task to completion
  - Knows the minimum amount necessary as background to a professional career
  - Has at least minimum standards of maturity, professionalism, and potential for performance
  - **Has achieved some success and is ready to build on that success**

College and Why You Must Go

- **Employers consider that non-College Graduates…**
  - Don’t get that in today’s world, knowledge is power
  - May not have the minimum skills necessary for success in a broad range of occupations
  - Might not have sufficient stamina to finish difficult or lengthy work assignments
  - **Are unproven compared to their peers who are college graduates**

College and Why You Must Go

- **The cold, hard facts are that**
  - A college degree is seen as a necessary minimum for most entry-level professional positions
  - A college degree demonstrates to an employer that you recognize the importance of knowledge
  - A college degree demonstrates to an employer that you may be worthy of corporate investment
  - **A college degree is a requirement for most rewarding, consequential work**

But More Important than Work…

- **College provides personal enrichment**
  - College student demographics are changing; older and older folks are entering college as a means of self-improvement
- **College study expands your perspective**
  - Consider how much your attitudes and ideas have changed since you were 15 years old; you'll change even more as a result of the college experience

How to Get Started

- **Visit Your Education Office**
  - Free, professional assistance with course and major choices, study programs, funding, unique scheduling, all matters related to off-duty education

- **Commit to Taking 1 Class a Semester**
  - For the first couple of years, it doesn’t really matter what you take; explore your options by taking a wide range of classes

Why People Don’t Go to School

- **I don’t have time!**
  - Fact is, you don’t have time not to. Each semester you delay makes it easier to delay further. Stop the cycle by analyzing your schedule to find the time
- **I can’t afford it!**
  - For active-duty, 100% TA is now available; many other funding programs exist to help with college costs. Visit your the funding expert: Your Education Officer at the Education Center.

Okay, I Got My CCAF: Now What?

- **Keep Going**
  - CCAF degrees are okay, but you need a bachelor's to compete in the marketplace. Keep trudging slowly towards that goal, one semester at a time

- **Make Effective Use of Your College Time**
  - Take the process seriously; make sure you aren't duplicating classes or unnecessarily taking classes that aren't required for your degree

What You Can Do with a Bachelor's

- **Compete Effectively for Jobs**
  - Without a bachelor's degree, it is very difficult to compete for professional positions in the civilian world. Ask any professional person; they'll tell you
- **Get a USAF Commission**
  - With a bachelor's degree, you may qualify for an Air Force commission and service as an officer.
  - The following slides explain Commissioning Programs and present opportunities

USAF Commissioning Opportunities

Six Programs Presently Available (slide to follow explains each one)

- SOAR
- ASCP
- POCERP
- AECP
- LEAD
- OTS

SOAR: Scholarships for Outstanding Airmen to ROTC

- Requires 2 years of college completed
- Applicants are separated from AF and provided scholarship for tuition only (may be a $15K cap)
- $200 a month stipend for books provided
- Applicants participate in ROTC while in college
- Must complete degree requirements and be commissioned by age 27 (some flexibility here)
- Deadline for applying is 15 Oct of each year
- **Find out more at www.afoats.af.mil/rotc**

ASCP: Airman Scholarship and Commissioning Program

- Requires 2 years of college completed
- Applicants are separated from AF and provided scholarship for tuition only ($15K cap on tuition)
- $200 a month stipend for books provided
- Applicants participate in ROTC while in college
- Must complete degree requirements and be commissioned by age 27 (some flexibility here)
- Deadline for applying is 15 Oct/15 Mar of each year

POCERP: Professional Officers Course Early Release Program

- Requires 2 years of college completed
- Applicants may be eligible for POC Incentive Scholarship ($3K) for tuition
- $200 a month stipend for books provided
- Applicants participate in ROTC while in college
- Must complete degree requirements and be commissioned by age 35 (some flexibility here)
- Deadline for applying is 15 Oct/15 Mar of each year
- **Find out more at www.afoats.af.mil/rotc**

AECP: Airman Education and Commissioning Program

- Requires 1 year of college completed
- Applicants remain on active duty and are promoted to E-5 for pay (you keep higher grade if already serving in a higher grade)
- $15K tuition cap; $200 monthly for books provided
- After college, applicant proceeds to OTS
- Must complete degree requirements and be commissioned by age 35 (some flexibility here)
- Deadline for applying is 15 Jan each year

LEAD: Leaders Encouraging Airman Development

- No firm college work requirement
- Program consists of potential year at prep school followed by 4 years at the AF Academy and a commission upon graduation
- No tuition, room, meals, medical, or dental charges; AFA Salary = $558 a month
- Must be unmarried with no dependents
- Deadline for applying is 31 Jan of each year
- **Find out more at www.usafa.af.mil**

OTS: Officer Training School

- 4-year degree required to apply
- Applicants remain on active duty; are promoted to E-5 during OTS training (or keep higher grade)
- 12 week program culminating in a commission
- Selection boards meet every 6-8 weeks
- Applications are made through unit of assigment and local MPF to HQ AFRS
- **Find out more at www.ots.afoats.af.mil**

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Discussion/Question Period

Contact MSgt Bartlett at x2-2664 or by email at wayne.bartlett@andrews.af.mil for more info